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REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered. The Office action rejected claims 1- 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,405,192 B1 to Brown et al. ("Brown"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

By present amendment, claims 1, 6-9, 13, 22, and 25 have been amended for clarification and not in view of the prior art. Applicants submit that the claims as filed were patentable over the prior art of record, and that the amendments herein are for purposes of clarifying the claims and/or for expediting allowance of the claims and not for reasons related to patentability. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview held (by telephone) on June 21, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner and applicants' attorney discussed the claims with respect to the prior art. The essence of applicants' position is incorporated in the remarks below.

Prior to discussing reasons why applicants believe that the claims in this application are clearly allowable in view of the teachings of the cited and applied references, a brief description of the present invention is presented.

The present invention is directed to a system and method for retrieving information about web pages before committing to downloading the web pages. That is, a user of a browser may decide whether or not to pursue a link based on information that is displayed when the user maneuvers a cursor over the link with an input pointing device. Maneuvering a cursor over a link is sometimes referred to as "mousing over" a link or "hovering" over a link. In this manner, the user of the

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browser may read information displayed in an information region near the moused

over link in order to decide (based on the displayed information, such as title,

keywords, prior browsing history, or other links within the linked web page) whether

to pursue the link (by then clicking the link).

For example, when an initial web page is first fetched, the contents of the

initial web page are parsed and displayed through a browser in a well-known

manner. Then, each of the links in the initial web page is identified and then

information about each of the web pages corresponding to the identified links is

obtained. This information may be stored in a separate local cache, a proxy cache,

or a localized server such that the information collected for each of the linked web

documents is easily retrieved. Further, relational information is assembled that

includes at least one relationship between a user (*i.e.*, the browser) and the linked

web page. That is, the relational information may be a user's last visit to the linked

web page, the total number of times that a user has visited the linked web page, or

the likelihood, based on a user's history, that the user will find the linked page

useful.

After the fetched information about the linked web page itself and the

assembling of the relational information about the linked web page is obtained, a

user may maneuver a cursor, controlled by the mouse, to hover over one of the

identified links. Then, an information region containing both the fetched information

that was retrieved that corresponds to that particular link and the assembled

relational information is displayed near the link. Thus, the user may make a more

informed decision about whether or not to follow the link. Note that the above

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description is for example and informational purposes only, and should not be used to interpret the claims, which are discussed below.

Turning to the claims, independent claim 1, as amended, recites a client-side computer-implemented method comprising fetching a current web page, the current web page including one or more links, each link pointing to a web page, fetching information regarding the web page to which each link points, wherein the information is stored separately from the current web page, assembling relational information based on the fetched information, the relational information including at least one relationship between the fetched information and a user of the client-side computer, displaying the current web page and, displaying an informational region in response to a cursor hovering over a particular link of the one or more links, the region including the information previously fetched regarding the web page to which the link points and the relational information previously assembled.

The Office action rejected claim 1 as being anticipated by Brown. More specifically, the Office action contends that Brown teaches fetching a current web page, the current web page including one or more links, each link pointing to a web page. Column 2, lines 15-17, column 6, line 20, column 6, and line 66 to column 7, line 2 of Brown are referenced. Further, the Office action contends that Brown teaches fetching information regarding the web page to which each link points, wherein the information is stored separately from the current web page. Column 2, lines 15-17, column 6, lines 21-27 of Brown are referenced. Still further, the Office action contends that Brown teaches displaying the current web page. Again, Column 2, lines 15-17, column 6, line 20, column 6, and line 66 to column 7, line 2

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of Brown are referenced. Finally, with respect to claim 1, the Office action

contends that Brown teaches displaying an informational region in response to a

cursor hovering over a particular link of the one or more links, the region including

the information previously fetched regarding the web page to which the link points.

Column 9, lines 46-59 of Brown is referenced.

Applicants respectfully disagree that Brown teaches displaying an

informational region in response to a cursor hovering over a particular link of the

one or more links, the region including the information previously fetched regarding

the web page to which the link points as recited in claim 1. However, in order to

clarify and expedite allowance of the claims, claim 1 has been amended to recite

assembling relational information based on the fetched information, the relational

information including at least one relationship between the fetched information and

a user of the client-side computer. Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to

recite displaying an informational region in response to a cursor hovering over a

particular link of the one or more links, the region including the information

previously fetched regarding the web page to which the link points and the

relational information previously assembled. These particular recitations are not

taught by Brown and, moreover, the concept of using relational information is not

even remotely appreciated by the teachings of Brown.

Rather, Brown is directed to a system and method for browsing the Internet

such that when a web page is being presented, a background thread is able to

parse the web page for a set of links. Each web page linked to the initial web page

is then retrieved and, then, also parsed for items matching a user's predetermined

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set of criteria. For example, a user may wish to parse each linked web page to find any reference to "puppy dogs". As such, when references are found that match the user's criteria, the initial web page is actually changed to indicate that criteria has been matched. For example, if a linked web page was found to be all about puppy dogs, the link to that web page on the initial web page may blink brightly or become larger than normal.

Notwithstanding these teachings, there is no teaching anywhere in Brown directed toward the concept of assembling relational information between the linked web pages and the user. Furthermore, Brown does not show any appreciation of a user's past browsing history, a user's previous visit to linked web pages, or a user's relationship to a linked web page, all of which are examples of the kinds of relational information, among others, recited in claim 1. As discussed above, relational information between the linked web page and a user, as well as, fetched information about the web page itself are presented in an information region that may be displayed when moused over by a user. Clearly, Brown does not show any cognizance of the concept of relational information, let alone teach the recitations of claim 1, as amended.

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-12 by similar analysis, are allowable. Each of these claims depends either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and consequently includes the recitations of independent claim 1. As discussed above, Brown fails to disclose the recitations of claim 1 and, therefore,

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these claims are also allowable over the prior art of record. In addition to the recitations of claim 1 noted above, each of these dependent claims includes additional patentable elements.

For example, claim 3 recites that the method of claim 1 is such that a user is able to obtain the information regarding the web page without selecting the link and committing to downloading the web page. That is, the information is obtained without "retrieving" the linked web page. In direct contrast, the system and method taught by Brown requires retrieving the linked web page to obtain any information. See generally, Abstract, and column 6, lines 18-64 of Brown. Thus, for at least this additional reason, applicants submit that claim 3 is allowable over the prior art of record.

As another example, claim 6 recites that the relational information includes at least information based on a user's relationship to the web page. As discussed above, Brown simply does not teach or even show any appreciation of the concept of relational information let alone a user's relationship to a web page as recited in claim 6. Applicants submit that for at least this additional reason, claim 6 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Turning to the next independent claim, amended claim 13 recites a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a client processor to perform a method comprising fetching a current web page, the current web page including one or more links, each link pointing to a web page, fetching information regarding the web page to which each link points, wherein the information is stored separately from the current web page, assembling relational

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information based on the fetched information, the relational information including at

least one relationship between the fetched information and a user of the client-side

computer, displaying the current web page, and displaying an informational region,

in response to a cursor hovering over a particular link of the one or more links, the

region including the information previously fetched regarding the web page to

which the link points and the relational information previously assembled.

The Office action rejected claim 13 as being anticipated by Brown for the

identical reasons that the Office action detailed in the rejection of claim 1. Claim 13

is directed to computer-executable instructions in a machine readable medium that

correspond to the method recited in claim 1. Therefore, the same reasons

discussed above with respect to claim 1 are also reasons why claim 13 is allowable

over the prior art of record. Thus, applicants submit that claim 13 is allowable for at

least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Further, applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 14-21, by

similar analysis, are allowable. Each of these claims depends either directly or

indirectly from claim 13 and consequently includes the recitations of independent

claim 13. As discussed above, Brown fails to disclose the recitations of claim 13

and, therefore, these claims are also allowable over the prior art of record. In

addition to the recitations of claim 13 noted above, each of these dependent claims

includes additional patentable elements.

Turning to the next independent claim, amended claim 22 recites, a

computerized system comprising at least one first entity storing web pages, at least

one second entity separate from the first entity storing information regarding the

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web pages, and, at least one client, each client able to browse web pages such

that fetching of a web page from at least one first entity causes the fetching of

information about other web pages from at least one second entity and causes the

assembling of relational information based on the fetched information, the relational

information including at least one relationship between the fetched information and

a user of the client, and the client further operable such that positioning of a cursor

over a link of a current web page causes display of an informational region

including information regarding a web page to which the link points as stored on

the at least one second entity and causes display of the assembled relational

information.

The Office action rejected claim 22 as being anticipated by Brown. Again,

the Office action presented identical reasons in the rejection of claim 22 as were

presented for the rejection of claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As pointed out previously, nowhere does Brown teach the concept of

assembling relational information between the linked web pages and the user.

Furthermore, Brown does not show any appreciation of a user's past browsing

history, a user's previous visit to linked web pages, or a user's relationship to a

linked web page, all of which are examples of the kinds of relational information,

among others, that is recited and claimed in claim 22. Relational information

between the linked web page and a user, as well as, fetched information about the

web page itself are presented in an information region that may be displayed when

moused over by a user. Clearly, Brown does not show any cognizance of this

concept, let alone teach the recitations of claim 22 as amended. For at least these

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additional reasons, applicants submit that claim 22 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 23-24, by similar analysis, are allowable. Both of these claims depend directly from claim 22 and, consequently, include the recitations of independent claim 22. As discussed above, Brown fails to disclose the recitations of claim 22 and, therefore, these claims are also allowable over the prior art of record. In addition to the recitations of claim 22 noted above, both of these dependent claims include additional patentable elements.

Turning to the last independent claim, amended claim 25 recites a computerized system comprising, at least one first entity capable of storing web pages, at least one second entity capable of providing summaries of the web pages, wherein the summaries include at least one relationship between a user of the first entity and a web page stored on the first entity, at least one third entity capable of providing for a given web page stored by the first entity, a list of all links on the web page and for each of the links, the corresponding summary, provided by the second entity, and, at least one client, each able to browse web pages such that fetching of a web page from the at least one first entity causes fetching information provided by the third entity and such that positioning of a cursor over a link of a current web page causes display of an informational region including information regarding a web page to which the link points.

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The Office action rejected claim 25 as being anticipated by Brown. Again, identical reasons were given in the rejection of claim 25 as were given for the rejection of claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, nowhere does Brown teach the concept of assembling relational information between linked web pages and the user. Furthermore, Brown does not even show any appreciation of a user's past browsing history, a user's previous visit to linked web pages, or a user's relationship to a linked web page all of which are examples of the kinds of relational information that is recited and claimed in claim 25. Relational information between the linked web page and a user, as well as, fetched information about the web page itself are presented in an information region that may be displayed when moused over by a user. Clearly, Brown does not show any cognizance of this concept, let alone teach the recitations of claim 25, as amended. Further, Brown does not teach a first entity, a second entity, and a client as recited in claim 25. For at least these additional reasons, applicants submit that claim 25 is allowable over the prior art of record.

For at least these additional reasons, applicants submit that all the claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in the Office action is respectfully requested and early allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.
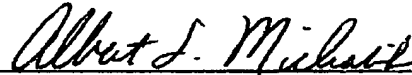
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-25

are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is in good and

proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is

earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the

prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the

undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Amendment, along with transmittal and facsimile

cover sheet, are being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and

Trademark Office in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.6(d) on the date shown below:

Date: July 22, 2004   _Albert S. Michalik_
                                              Albert S. Michalik

2920 Amendment

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